Advertisement regarding purchase of bullet proof jackets on the website of MOD

†2794. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 766 given in Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 2002 and state:

(a) the reasons for displaying the technical and commercial proposal for light bullet proof jackets by a brief information on the official website of the Defence Ministry;

(b) the reasons for not advertising the same through the National dailies in the whole country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that requisitions slips have also been sent to such firms/companies which don't possess the requisite technical capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A brief notice regarding issue of "Global Request for Technical and Commercial Offers for Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets" was put on the official website of the Ministry of Defence with a view to adding greater transparency to the "Request for Proposal" which was issued to the foreign as well as Indian Vendors as per data maintained by the Army Headquarters which is based on the inputs from Indian Defence Attaches/Military Attaches in various countries, Directorate General Quality Assurance and list of past suppliers etc. This was also done with a view to giving it enough publicity and ensuring that there was maximum participation from the industry in India and abroad.

2. The "Request for Proposal" was issued to various Vendors as per data maintained by Army Headquarters, which, apart from inputs from other sources, is based on advertising brochures of various companies and/or letters sent by various Vendors to the Army Head Quarters in the past offering their products. It would not have been possible to check the technical capabilities of the firms at the time of issue of "Request for Proposal". However, in the "Request for Proposal", as well as the notice put on the official website of Ministry of Defence, it was made clear that the Technical and Commercial Proposals were invited from 'Original Equipment Manufacturers' (OEM) only.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. All Technical Proposals received in response to the "Request for Proposal" were scrutinised by a Technical Evaluation Committee comprising qualified persons from Army, Defence Research & Development Organisation and Directorate General Quality Assurance, and only those Vendors whose Technical Proposals were approved by this Committee were requested to submit their samples of Bullet Proof Jackets, for trials.

Steps to maximise effectiveness of coast guard

2795. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to make the coast guard force more effective; and

(b) are our Coast Guard Stations and Personnel adequately equipped keeping in view the fast changing profile of maritime criminals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Coast Guard has formulated a Coast Guard Development Plan (CGDP-2002-2007) and a Coast Guard Perspective Plan (CGDP-2002-2017). The salient features of Coast Guard Development Plan 2002-2007 are:-

(i) Ongoing Schemes–Ongoing Schemes consist of ongoing projects of acquisition of ships and aircraft along with manpower and associated shore support infrastructure.

(ii) Replacement Schemes–These schemes are meant to replace ageing ships and aircraft to maintain existing force levels.

(iii) New Schemes–These schemes pertain to new acquisition of ships and aircraft and associated shore support infrastructure including manpower.

(iv) New Coast Guard Stations–Ten new Coast Guard stations are planned to be set up in a phased manner. Five stations are planned during 2002-2007 (Phase I) and balance five in next CGDP 2007-2012. The locations of these stations are:—